## We claim:

1. A tetracyclic taxane having the formula

wherein

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, hydroxy, or -OCOR<sub>31</sub>;

 $R_{4a}$  is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyano, hydroxy, or  $-OCOR_{30}$ ;

R<sub>7a</sub> is hydrogen, halogen or -OR<sub>28;</sub>

 $R_{10a}$  is hydrogen, -OCOR<sub>29</sub>, hydroxy or protected hydroxy;

 $R_{13}$  is hydroxy or protected hydroxy;

R<sub>14</sub> is hydrogen;

 $R_{28}$  is hydrogen, acyl, or hydroxy protecting group; and  $R_{29}$ ,  $R_{30}$  and  $R_{31}$  are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkynyl, monocyclic aryl or monocyclic heteroaryl.

- 2. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein  $R_2$  is benzoyloxy;  $R_{4a}$  is acetoxy;  $R_{7a}$  is  $-OR_{28}$ ; and  $R_{28}$  is as defined in claim 1.
- 3. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 2 wherein  $R_{10a}$  is a protected hydroxy;  $R_{28}$  is hydrogen or hydroxy protecting group; and  $R_{31}$  is alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl.
- 4. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 2 wherein  $R_{10a}$  is  $-OCOR_{29};$  and  $R_{29}$  is as defined in claim 1.
- 5. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 2 wherein  $R_{28}$  is hydrogen.
- 6. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 2 wherein  $R_{28}$  is a hydroxy protecting group.

- 7. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 10-deacetyl- $9\beta$ -hydroxy-9-deoxo baccatin (III).
- 8. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 7,10-bis-O-triethylsilyl-10-deacetyl-9 $\beta$ -hydroxy-9-deoxo baccatin (III).
- 9. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is  $9\beta$ -hydroxy-9-deoxo baccatin (III).
- 10. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 7-0-triethylsilyl-9 $\beta$ -hydroxy-9-deoxo baccatin (III).
- 11. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 7-0-triethylsilyl-9 $\beta$ -hydroxy-9-deoxo-13-0-trimethylsilyl baccatin (III).
- 12. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 7-0-triethylsilyl-9 $\beta$ -acetoxy-9-deoxo-10-deacetyl-13-0-trimethylsilyl baccatin (III).
- 13. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 7,10-bis-O-triethylsilyl-9 $\beta$ -acetoxy-9-deoxo-10-deacetyl-13-O-trimethylsilyl baccatin (III).